



Commerce Committee  
Public Hearing  
March 19, 2013

Submitted by Lynn Taborsak, Climate Change Specialist  
in support of

**HB 6650: An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency Programs**

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a non-partisan statewide organization comprised of over 1600 members in 27 local chapters and committed to effective public policy and the active participation of citizens in their government. On behalf of the League, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of this measure.

The League has consistently supported policies to reduce energy consumption, encourage energy conservation and promote the use of renewable resources. We are grateful that the legislature has a long history of adopting measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

While Connecticut has many excellent programs to help people conserve energy, we have not provided residents who heat with oil or propane reliable funding to upgrade heating equipment or equal access to low-cost energy efficiency programs like the popular Home Energy Solutions program. HB 6650 corrects this inequity with the establishment of a separate non-lapsing Oil Heat and Propane Energy Efficiency Fund financed by an excise tax on heating oil and propane. Any revenue raised from this tax should be used exclusively for energy efficiency purposes. This will provide a stable funding stream for residents to upgrade heating equipment and make energy efficient improvements to homes and buildings that use oil or propane for heating.

It is particularly important for Connecticut since 48 percent of the homes in our state heat with oil and the average price of oil is now well over four dollars a gallon. With deep cuts to federal energy assistance projected by mandatory sequestration targets, Connecticut families will lose millions in energy assistance funds. State residents on low or fixed incomes cannot afford to be comfortable in their own homes.

While we have made solid progress on reducing industrial greenhouse gas emissions in our state, we cannot ignore the fact that one-fifth of all greenhouse gas emissions come from household energy use. Let's not leave 48 percent of our residents out in the cold. Please support HB 6650.